

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 001329

67

ORIGIN NEA-12

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, MASS, US, GR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MILITARY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION

REF: PUGH/GEORGE TELCON JANUARY 3

1. FOREIGN MILITARY ASSISTANCE ACT AUTHORIZATION BILL FOR 1974, SIGNED INTO LAW BY PRESIDENT NIXON IN DECEMBER. APPROPRIATION BILL NOW AWAITS PRESIDENTIAL SIGNATURE. APPROPRIATION BILL PROVIDES DOLS. 325 MILLION IN NEW OBLIGATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR FMS CREDITS AND DOLS. 730 MILLION CEILING FOR FMS DIRECT CREDIT AND GUARANTEES COMBINED, OF WHICH DOLS. 300 MILLION HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR ISRAEL.

2. TEXT OF PELL BILL (S. 2754), CO-SPONSORED BY JACKSON, FOLLOWS. SECTIONS IN PARENTHESES REPRESENT AMENDMENTS TO ORIGINAL LANGUAGE OF BILL. TWO WORDS, "THE LAW" IN DOUBLE PARENS IN TEXT BELOW APPEAR IN ORIGINAL BUT NOT PRESENT WORDING:

QUOTE: A BILL TO PROHIBIT ALL MILITARY ASSISTANCE
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PAGE 02 STATE 001329

TO GREECE UNTIL IT IS DETERMINED THAT GREECE IS FULFILLING

ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED

THAT THE CONGRESS DECLARES THAT IT IS THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND MILITARY SALES, CREDIT SALES, AND GUARANTIES TO OR FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE ONLY WHEN THAT GOVERNMENT FULFILLS ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY, INCLUDING BOTH ADHERENCE TO THE POLITICAL PRINCIPLES STATED IN THE PREAMBLE TO THE TREATY AND THE MAINTENANCE OF ITS CAPABILITY TO PERFORM COMMON DEFENSE FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED UNDER THE CURRENT NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION DEFENSE PLANS. THEREFORE, NO MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND NO SALES, CREDIT SALES, OR GUARANTIES SHALL BE PROVIDED TO OR FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE UNDER ((THE LAW)) (THIS OR ANY OTHER ACT AFTER THE DATE OF ENACTMENT OF THIS ACT) UNTIL THE PRESIDENT 1) UNDERTAKES A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW, (AFTER SUCH DATE,) OF UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD GREECE, 2) HAS MADE A FULL REPORT WITH RESPECT TO SUCH REVIEW TO CONGRESS, AND 3) FINDS AND REPORTS TO CONGRESS THAT, AS A RESULT OF SUCH REVIEW, THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE IS IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH ITS POLITICAL AND MILITARY OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY. (IF THE PRESIDENT PROPOSES ANY SUCH MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SALES, CREDIT SALES, OR GUARANTIES, NOTICE SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE THIRTY DAYS IN ADVANCE THEREOF, STATING THAT SUCH MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SALES, CREDIT SALES, OR GUARANTIES ARE TO BE GIVEN, THE TERMS THEREOF, AND THE OVER-RIDING NATIONAL INTEREST WHICH JUSTIFIES IT, NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS ACT.) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT APPLY TO FUNDS OBLIGATED PRIOR TO SUCH DATE OF ENACTMENT. UNQUOTE.

3. BACKGROUND ON AMENDED PELL BILL -- WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED INFORMALLY BY SFRC STAFF THAT DURING COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF BILL SHORTLY BEFORE CHRISTMAS RECESS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 001329

SENATOR SCOTT'S (PA.) OPPOSITION TO BILL LED JAVITS TO PROPOSE AMENDED LANGUAGE AS COMPROMISE (IN ORDER EXPEDITE ACTION PRIOR TO RECESS). ONE RESULT WAS PRESENT AMBIGUOUS WORDING OF BILL. SFRC INTERPRETATION IS THAT NEW LANGUAGE WOULD PERMIT PRESIDENT TO ESCAPE MAKING DETERMINATION THAT GREECE IS FULFILLING NATO OBLIGATIONS AND CHOOSE INSTEAD TO PROVIDE BOTH HOUSES WITH THIRTY DAYS NOTICE.

4. PELL BILL WAS REPORTED OUT OF SFRC PRIOR TO RECESS OF
CONGRESS BUT NOT VOTED ON THE SENATE FLOOR. RUSH

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